

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 10, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 4-12 and 15-19 were objected to, and claims 1-3, 13, 14 and 20 were rejected.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 4-12 and 15-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4, 7 and 8 have been amended to be in independent form and contain all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5, 6 and 15-19 are dependent upon independent claim 4, and claims 9-12 are dependent upon independent claim 8 and contain all limitations thereof. Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 4, 7 and 8 are allowable.

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 13, 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koike et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,458) in view of Terada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,031). Claims 1-3 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 13 and 14 depend from independent claim 4 and contain all limitations thereof. Thus claims 13 and 14 are allowable.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as

originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any and all fees due are charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. **Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.) Order Number 075115.0301.**

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. (023640)

By: Paul N. Katz

Paul N. Katz
Reg. No. 35,917
One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002-4995
Telephone: 713.229.1343
Facsimile: 713.229.7743
E-Mail: Paul.Katz@bakerbotts.com
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

September 1, 2004